

Excavation at Fatehpur Sikri

3230. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the reports of the excavation conducted recently at Fatehpur Sikri by Archaeological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that ASI had not submitted any reports pertaining to the earlier excavations conducted at various other places; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ASI has recently conducted two separate excavations at Fatehpur Sikri in Agra district. The first excavation relates to the discovery of an underground 'cool chamber' beneath the existing Anup Talao in the palace complex which has corroborated contemporary accounts in this regard. The second excavation at Bir Chhabili-ka-tila, at a separate site, has yielded sculptures of Jain dieties datable to the 10th-11th century A.D.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Excavation reports of ASI

3231. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of excavation reports submitted by the Archaeological Survey of India out of over 46 sites, in which the ASI is engaged since a longtime;

(b) whether the ASI is following international standard in conducting or further continuing excavations in sites; if so, what are those standards; and

(c) since when ASI's yearly publication has stopped to come out?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) All the excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India upto 1994-95 have been duly reported in the "Indian Archaeology—A Review". Thirty four comprehensive reports and 12 reports on specific categories of excavated material have been published by the ASI.

(b) The Archaeological Survey of India scrupulously follows well established standards for conducting excavations. These standards are: stratigraphical digging, scientific study of strata and structures, collection of samples for further scientific investigations/analyses, thorough documentation by photography and drawings of the excavated relics as well as of sections showing stratigraphy of layers.

(c) The ASI's yearly publication have not ceased to come out. The latest in this series is for the year 1994-95.

Construction of Yatri Niwas in NE Region

3232. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme and programme for construction of Yatri Niwas at various places in the States of NER during the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the total fund allocation for the same; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Central Government has a scheme for providing financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations for construction of Yatri Niwas at various places in the country. Such projects are identified and prioritised every year in consultation with the State Govts/Union Territories.

(b) to (d) During 2000-2001, the Central Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Governments of North-Eastern region has prioritised 29 project proposals pertaining to construction of budget accommodation for an amount of Rs. 918.15 lakhs as central